



The next meeting of the

National Capital Area Chapter

of the Association of Professional Genealogists

will be held on Saturday, October 19, 2013 at 2:00pm

at the National Archives

After a brief meeting our program will be:

**"Ran off or Carried Away: The History and Genealogy of Maryland's
Enslaved population during the War of 1812."**

Presented by Maya Davis

On June 1, 1812, America declared itself at war against the British. The following year, British vessels began to show up in the Chesapeake Bay. When they arrived they plundered the homes of Maryland property owners. The enslaved population recognized their opportunity to escape and fled to British ships by the hundreds. On April 2, 2014, British Admiral Alexander Cochrane issued a proclamation offering immediate emancipation to any person wishing to take up arms with their military or wanting to relocate to a British Territory. The number of slaves who escaped after the emancipation increased, consisting of men, women, and children. Many of the enslaved people who were able to escape through the assistance of British ships, came from a tightly knit community of families scattered on Maryland farms. Through researching documents held at the Maryland State Archives, National Archives and Nova Scotia Archives, we are able to piece together the lives of a group of people who have come to be known as the Black Refugees. This presentation will draw attention to the historical and genealogical methods used to trace the lives of people who often fall through the cracks of American History.

Maya Davis, is a Research Archivist in the Legacy of Slavery in Maryland division at the Maryland State Archives. Projects include researching the Underground Railroad in Maryland and slaves that escaped during the War of 1812. Maya was on staff at the City Museum of Washington, D.C. and a Research Assistant at Kiplinger Library working with the photographic collections and manuscripts. Largely she has worked with collections that focus on the history of African Americans in Washington, DC particularly in the neighborhoods of Georgetown and Anacostia. Maya is a graduate of Howard University with a BA in History and is currently working toward her masters in Museum Studies at George Washington University. Maya is a native Washingtonian, who was born and raised in the city and enjoys sharing the city's untapped history.